

As Mr. Mitchell retires from his position on the Colorado Farm Bureau, I would like to thank him for his unprecedented service and outstanding leadership. I am grateful for his involvement and work for the citizens and farmers of Colorado. Mr. Mitchell is a remarkable individual and I wish him the best of luck as he turns the page on a new chapter in life.

TRIBUTE TO NAOMI AND ZACK  
PRENDERGAST

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Naomi and Zack Prendergast for their dedication to their family and for their recognition as the 1999 Parents of the Year for America. Because of their commitment to family and serving others, they are quite deserving of praise.

Meeting over 22 years ago in a shelter for abandoned children in Italy, Naomi and Zack found a common desire to serve others. They were married and began a life together which has taken them around the world in their personal ministry. The parents of 12 children, they are unique not only because of their large family, but for their dedication to raising their children to serve.

Five years ago, the Prendergast family moved to Longmont, CO. From the broad range of volunteer and service efforts which they have undertaken, an organization known as Family Service, Inc., has emerged. With such a large family, and such dedication to service, helping others has always been a family affair for the Prendergasts. Their family singing group performs at nursing homes, schools, shelters and various other places where inspiration and joy may be given.

The Prendergast family also began an effort to gather donated food for area homeless shelters. Family Services, Inc., with the help and generosity of community members, provides donated food each week to these shelters, donating an average of 8,000 pounds of food per month. Zack has found time to run a project, in addition to the various projects he works on, to promote responsible fatherhood. St. Vrain Fatherhood Connection offers parenting classes for young fathers and a support group located at a local church.

I am grateful for people like the Prendergast family, who not only strive to serve, but teach their children the importance of respect and service as well. For their dedication to helping others, their involvement in bettering the community in which they live, and for sharing their fundamental values and work ethic with their children and the citizens of Longmont, I wish to commend Zack and Naomi and recognize their achievements. They are unique and I greatly appreciate their noble efforts.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JASPER  
WELCH OF DURANGO, CO. FOR  
HIS DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Jasper Welch of Durango, CO. Because of his community involvement and service, and dedication to leadership Mr. Welch is quite deserving of recognition and praise. He is an outstanding citizen and I greatly appreciate his hard work and the example he sets.

Mr. Welch received a bachelor of science degree in 1975 from the University of Colorado where he graduated with distinction. He is a certified trainer and consultant for the Professional Dynametric Programs, a Certified Elected Official by the Colorado Municipal League, and a certified facilitator and trainer for the Zenger-Miller training systems.

Mr. Jasper Welch is a distinguished member of the Durango community, dedicating time and energy to various pursuits and causes. Serving as the cochair of Leadership La Plata from 1988 until 1998, Mr. Welch has encouraged the development of leadership skills of Durango's youth. He has found time to serve as chairman of the Transportation Board, as member of the board of directors for the Hundred Club of Durango, as mayor of Durango, and has held various other service and leadership role.

Jasper Welch has committed great time and energy to the betterment of Durango and those around him. I am grateful to him for his hard work and for the example he has set. For his strong work ethic, perseverance, and continued leadership, I commend him and pay tribute to this remarkable man. I hope that he will continue in his noble pursuits to educate, inspire, and serve others.

HONORING JAMES D. McELHANNON

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James D. McElhannon as he has been awarded with the nation's Military Order of the Purple Heart Award.

James D. McElhannon is a resident of Lemoore, and a retired Master Sergeant of the Korean War. During his time served in Korea, he was wounded in the battle for the Nakdong River on September 10–20, 1950. Sergeant McElhannon was leading his platoon (2nd platoon, Charlie, 3rd combat Engineer Battalion) on a night reconnaissance when enemy forces began firing their weapons. McElhannon was wounded by a mortar attack, receiving shrapnel in his leg. He refused medical attention in order to continue his mission. Though losing blood through the night, Sergeant McElhannon used his own bayonet to remove the shrapnel in his leg. The 2nd Platoon Charlie Company held fast did not withdraw until the platoon was officially relieved.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor James D. McElhannon for his bravery and

commitment in the Korean War. His courage has lead him to receive the nation's Military Order of the Purple Heart Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing James McElhannon many more years of success.

HONORING WILLIAM A. GALLINA  
ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 1999*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who embodies what it means to be a true American, a dedicated family man, an accomplished professional, and a consummate citizen of New York City, William A. Gallina, on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

William, or "Bill" as he is known by those closest to him, has lifelong roots in the Bronx. Born on his parents' kitchen table in the West Farms section of the Bronx on July 26, 1939, Bill blazed an exceptional path from the very beginning.

Growing up in the South Bronx home of his immigrant parents, his mother from Germany, his father from Italy, Bill attended Public School 6, Herman Ridder Junior High School, and earned his diploma at James Monroe High School. Following high school graduation, Bill attended New York State Maritime College where he spent three years studying Maritime Engineering, then transferred to Fairleigh Dickinson University where he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

After graduation, he began working at Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation where he and a small group of rocket propulsion engineers successfully helped in the design of the descent engine of the Lunar Excursion Modules (L.E.M.) fulfilling President John F. Kennedy's dream and America's promise of landing on the moon before the close of the 1960s.

While working for Grumman, Bill attended St. John's University Law School in the evenings, graduating in 1967 with a Juris Doctor degree. Upon graduation from law school he went to work for a major Wall Street law firm specializing in intellectual property, eventually leaving to open his own firm specializing in criminal and personal injury law. He returned to the Bronx in the early 1970s where he was instrumental in constructing a professional medical office complex where he maintained his office for the practice of law.

To this day, he continues to practice law in Bronx County where he has become one of the leading personal injury attorneys in the metropolitan New York area. His parents continued to live in Bronx County until their passing. Bill's mother used the very same kitchen table on which he was born until her death in 1997 at the age of 98.

Bill is married to the former Ronnie Bernon and has an 11-year-old son, three daughters from a prior marriage, and two grandchildren. He is active in local and national bar associations, in particular, the New York State Trial Lawyers where he serves as a member of the Board of Directors, fighting to protect the rights of accident victims.

Bill is an avid sailor, spending his limited free time sailing the waters of Long Island Sound.